

IN THE CLAIMS:

1-79. (Canceled)

80. (Currently Amended) A method for conducting electronic transactions with any of a plurality of merchants over a network, the method comprising:

~~at a merchant computer:~~

~~sending, to a consumer computer, an electronic mail message associated with an electronic transaction, the electronic mail message including a link to a consumer information server; and~~

~~at the a consumer information server:~~

~~receiving, from the consumer computer, a connection request based on the link a communication from a merchant computer which has compiled purchase information based on a request for a consumer transaction,~~

~~determining whether a consumer using the consumer computer is registered with the consumer information server contains registration information to complete the consumer transaction with the merchant computer,~~

~~if the consumer is not registered with the consumer information server does not have the registration information, sending, to the consumer computer, a request for the registration information,~~

~~receiving, from the consumer computer, registration information in response to the request, the registration information including a consumer identification number, a consumer electronic mail address, and consumer payment information, and~~

~~storing the registration information for use in subsequent consumer transactions so that the consumer does not have to register separately with respective merchants.~~

81. (Previously presented) The method of claim 80, wherein the electronic mail message includes purchase information associated with the electronic transaction.

82. (Previously presented) The method of claim 81, wherein the purchase information includes a merchant computer uniform resource locator.

83. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 80, wherein the electronic mail message includes connection software to generate the connection request ~~on the consumer computer~~.

84. (Previously presented) The method of claim 80, wherein the link includes an Internet address of the consumer information server.

85. (Previously presented) The method of claim 84, wherein the connection request includes the Internet address of the consumer information server.

86. (Cancelled) The method of claim 80, wherein the registration information includes a consumer electronic mail address.

87. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~86~~80, wherein the registration information includes a consumer passphrase.

88. (Cancelled) The method of claim 87, wherein the registration information includes consumer payment information.

89. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~88~~87, wherein the registration information includes a consumer shipping address.

90. (Previously presented) The method of claim 89, wherein the registration information includes a consumer shipping method.

91. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 80, further comprising:
at the consumer information server:

checking the registration information for errors; and

sending a cookie ~~to the consumer computer~~.

92. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 80, further comprising:
at the consumer information server:

sending an electronic mail message ~~to the consumer computer~~ indicating that the registration information was stored.

93. (Currently Amended) A method for conducting electronic transactions over a network, comprising:

at a merchant computer:

sending, ~~to a consumer computer~~, a first electronic mail message having a link including an Internet address of a consumer information server;

~~at the consumer computer:~~

~~selecting the link contained within the first electronic mail message received from the merchant computer, and~~

~~sending a connection request to the Internet address of the consumer information server; and~~

at the consumer information server:

determining whether a consumer ~~using the consumer computer~~ is registered with the consumer information server,

if the consumer is not registered with the consumer information server,

sending, ~~to the consumer computer~~, a request for registration information in response to ~~the a connection request received from the consumer computer~~,

receiving, ~~from the consumer computer~~, registration information in response to the request, the registration information including a consumer identification number, a consumer electronic mail address and a consumer passphrase,

storing the registration information for use in subsequent consumer transactions so that the consumer does not have to register separately with respective merchants, and

sending, ~~to the consumer computer~~, a second electronic mail message indicating that the registration information was stored.